

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 00485 111134Z

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ACTION NEA-01

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O 111044Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2622

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 0485

USIAC

FOR IOP/M; INA; IBS; IPS; BEIRUT FOR VOA

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - SECSTATE MIDEAST VISIT

1. BOTH DAMASCUS DAILIES GIVE STRAIGHT FORWARD WIRE SERVICE ACCOUNTS OF SECRETARY'S ARRIVAL IN ISRAEL AND COMMENCEMENT OF TALKS THERE. ALSO, AUTHORITATIVE EDITORIAL IN AL-BAATH GIVES SYRIAN POSITION VIS-A-VIS NEW PEACE MOVES.

2. CHIEF EDITOR SABER FALHUT OF AL-BAATH WARNS THAT ISRAEL'S EFFORTS IN DIVIDING ARABS IS IN LINE WITH HER BASIC REJECTION OF PEACE BASED ON COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL FROM OCCUPIED LANDS AND A GUARANTEE OF THE RIGHTS OF PALESTINIANS. FALHUT WROTE "OUR ENEMY WORKS FOR THE SPLITTING OF THE ARAB FRONT, AND TO THIS END HIS COLLABORATORS PRESENT.... PARTIAL SETTLEMENT PROPOSALS...FOR THE PURPOSE OF DYNAMITING ARAB SOLIDARITY, WHICH IS THE BRIDGE LEADING TO EVERY VICTORY." FALHUT ENDORSES DIALOGUE AND OPEN-MINDEDNESS, BUT ASSERTS "WE MUST MAKE ALL OUR MILITARY PREPARATIONS... UNCLASSIFIED

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ALWAYS READY TO CARRY OUT TO THE END ANY BATTLE IN THE

INTEREST OF OUR RIGHT AND DIGNITY." WITHOUT THIS PRE-
PARATION AND A WILLINGNESS TO MAKE THE NECESSARY SACRIFI-
CES, SAYS FALHUT, " NO MEDIATOR IN THE WORLD CAN RETURN ARAB
RIGHTS TO US..." FALHUT STATES, "LET OUR DIALOGUE WITH
THE OTHERS ENCOMPASS ALL THE VARIABLES AND LET OUR MINDS
STAY OPEN WITHOUT ANY COMPLEXES. BUT WE MUST NEVER FOR A
MOMENT FORGET THAT OUR CHRONIC STRUGGLE WITH THE ENEMY IS
AN UNUSUAL ONE AND REQUIRES UNUSUAL EFFORTS IN WHICH
POLITICAL SKILLS OF THE HIGHEST LEVEL MUST BEAR AND BE BACKED
BY ALL THE MILITARY, ECONOMIC AND STRATEGIC ENERGIES OF
OUR NATION. MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL IS TO NEVER LET DROP THE
WEAPON OF ARAB SOLIDARITY WHETHER WE GO AHEAD ON THE
POLITICAL ROAD OR TO THE BATTLEFIELDS OF THE GOLAN, SINAI
AND ELSEWHERE."
KEITH

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